

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. **(cancelled)**
2. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :
said middle component is slideably received by said second base ~~bottom~~
component.
3. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :
said concave portion has a constant radius.
4. **(withdrawn – currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17
[[1]], wherein :
said concave portion has a varying radius in at least one direction.
5. **(withdrawn – currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17
[[1]], wherein :
said concave portion has a varying radius in at least two directions.
- 6, 7. **(cancelled)**
8. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :
said convex portion extends above a generally flat surface and is surrounded by
a groove that extends below said generally flat surface.
9. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein:
the middle component ~~said intermediate portion~~ has an anterior edge and a
posterior edge; and said convex portion has a center of radius that is closer to said
anterior edge than it is to said posterior edge.
10. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :

~~the middle said intermediate~~ component has an anterior edge and a posterior edge, and ~~the middle said intermediate~~ component varies in height along a direction between ~~the said~~ anterior edge and ~~the said~~ posterior edge.

11-16. **(cancelled)**

17. **(new)** A prosthetic assembly for use between a pair of adjacent vertebrae, comprising

 a first base component having a first side adapted for engaging the first of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side;

 a second base component having a first side adapted for engaging the second of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side;

 the first sides of each of the base components comprising at least two raised teeth and at least one inverted frustocone, as the vertebra-engaging adaptation; and

 a middle component having a first side with a convex portion thereon adapted to engage the concave portion, and an opposing second side;

 wherein the second side of the second base component is adapted to removably receive the second side of the middle component.

18. **(new)** The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein:

 the raised teeth are positioned near a periphery of the first side of the base component and the at least one inverted frustocone is positioned in a central area thereof.

19. **(new)** The prosthetic assembly of claim 18, wherein:

 there are at least two inverted frustocones, arranged concentrically.